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Making the Grade #22: A Fair to Remember

8/27/2015

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The ANA World's Fair of Money held recently in Chicago, that is. This ANA was by far the busiest in my 25+years of setting up at the ANA. Not in terms of total sales dollars (as I did no huge deals) but in terms of the sheer number of transactions. I saw many new faces, and was quite pleased at the number of young people among my new customers.

These folks were quite knowledgeable and they knew what they wanted. Lots of them had done their homework on the Internet. The knowledge they gained there made them more confident and smarter buyers. I came away with a very good feeling about the future. Less book learnin' but more readin' online – seems like a fair trade off to me to get more folks involved in the King of Hobbies.

People Really Like Reading This E-Newsletter ... Or Do They?

First off, I would like to thank all the folks who stopped by my table at the ANA to say that they enjoyed reading this e-newsletter. After confirming that they weren't confusing my newsletter with someone else's, I told each that I was grateful

Archives

[May 2019](#)
[February 2019](#)
[December 2018](#)
[June 2018](#)
[March 2018](#)
[October 2017](#)
[June 2017](#)
[May 2017](#)
[March 2017](#)
[December 2016](#)
[October 2016](#)
[September 2016](#)
[August 2016](#)
[June 2016](#)
[May 2016](#)
[February 2016](#)
[January 2016](#)
[November 2015](#)
[October 2015](#)
[August 2015](#)
[June 2015](#)
[May 2015](#)
[April 2015](#)

for their kind words. It's nice to know that there are at least a few people in Internet Land that appreciate this mix of semi-interesting numismatic tidbits and offerings of fresh-to-market coins.

But just when I was getting a swelled head and started to ponder a 2nd career as a highly compensated e-newsletter writer, I received a text from a close friend in the coin business who has quite a different opinion:

"Just my personal observation is that your (newsletter) seems to get clogged up with some verbose minutia. If that appeals to a lot of people then you should keep it up, but I'm just giving you my personal take (maybe that also delays getting out your list?) "

He's absolutely right, of course. Between getting all of the new coins home from the show and photographed, then describing them, then performing my regularly scheduled procrastination duties, then finally getting to writing all of the verbose minutia and sending it out, I'm positive it could be out the door much sooner. But since I can't fire myself, and since these are still a lot of fun for me to write, I'll keep on plodding away as before.

Making Your Own Coins – An Alternate View

In the last newsletter I relayed an account of the crude and backward nature of our colonial era times, and remarked on how amazing I thought it was that the colonists were able to accomplish such a complicated task as minting their own coinage.

However, later I stumbled upon a book that made minting one's own coins seem rather simple. It is called, "[Striking Gold in Alaska; Making Tokens from Placer Gold.](#)" It is written by Dick Hanscom.

Written with self-deprecating humor and illustrated with photos he has taken of his "minting facility" (which consists of his daughter's old bedroom and a closet in his house, among other rooms), he tells you step-by-step how he did it.

It is a small book, a quick read and available directly from the author himself. Just Google the title and author.

To be fair to the Colonists though, there are some important differences between what Mr. Hanscom is doing and what the Colonists achieved. Mr. Hanscom is making coins out of a soft metal (gold). His coins are small as well; he carves the dies directly from the planed off head of a bolt. And perhaps it is unfair to compare making high production quantities of silver coinage in 1600's Massachusetts with someone doing it today.

In any case though, if you are like me and dream about how cool it would be to make your own coins, this book will help you "get your Walter Mitty on."

On to the NewP's

As in my previous newsletters, these coins are the items I have gathered over the last few weeks. The plan is to upload all these coins to my website. In the meantime, readers of this newsletter will be the very first to lay eyes on these offerings. By popular demand, I've included photos of the coins where I have them.

The "Making the Grade" Featured Coin –

1795 Draped Bust, Small Eagle Eagle. PCGS graded VF-35, CAC.

13 Leaves. A classic US type coin, and an iconic design (in fact, I use this design as the logo of my company, as it is my favorite US coin design). Lemon gold in color, free of distractions and – intriguingly – some cartwheel luster among the devices. An issue that is very difficult to find with the coveted CAC sticker verifying its grade, as most 1795 \$10's have seen numismatic abuse of one kind or another over the years. Not inexpensive, but it is an opportunity that doesn't come around very often these days. PCGS #8551. \$56,500.

[March 2015](#)[February 2015](#)[January 2015](#)[December 2014](#)[November 2014](#)[October 2014](#)[September 2014](#)[August 2014](#)[July 2014](#)[June 2014](#)[May 2014](#)[April 2014](#)[March 2014](#)[February 2014](#)

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 [RSS Feed](#)

Categories

[All](#)

New Purchases**(circa 1645-1670) St. Patrick's Farthing. PCGS graded VF-25.**

A truly lovely example of this enigmatic issue. An issue like this is what makes colonial numismatics really fun. Despite having our best people on the case for decades, we don't know for sure really basic information about these coins. Basic info such as - who made them; why there are so many different die varieties, but each is quite rare; when they were made; why they are so elaborate (a complicated design, reeded edges, a brass splasher on the "king" side to make the crown look like it is made of gold); what the original denomination was supposed to be; and so on. We do know for sure that they were made legal tender in the Colony of New Jersey in the 1680's. Regardless – this specimen happens to be quite beautiful, with milk chocolate brown surfaces, lots of detail, and a large and showy splasher. And who knows - maybe YOU will be the one to solve the mystery of these coins. PCGS # 42. \$2275.

1787 Fugio Copper. PCGS graded VF30.

A boldly struck example of this popular and historic coin. Medium brown color with lighter brown color on the devices. The surfaces are hard, free of roughness, and slightly glossy. There is a flan flaw on the reverse near 7 o'clock that does not impede any of the design. A handsome specimen of our very first Federal coin. PCGS #883. \$1385.

1883/2 Shield Nickel. PCGS graded AU-55. CAC [ogh].

FS-302. Just a beautiful, frosty and original example of this tough and popular overdate. All of the die markers are visible, and the overdate feature is especially bold. Housed in a 25 year old PCGS slab. PCGS # 3814. \$1985.

1818 Bust Quarter. PCGS graded VF-25, CAC.

Light gray with hints of gold, and very pleasing for the grade. PCGS #5322. \$875.

1834 Bust Quarter. PCGS graded XF40, CAC.

Even light gray in color, with a crescent of gold on part of the obverse rim and a thin crescent of blue on part of the reverse rim. Some mint luster is fighting to peek out around some of the protected areas of the design. PCGS # 5353. \$575.

1814 Bust Half Dollar. PCGS graded AU50, CAC.

As you can see from the photos, it is stunning. Just stunning. PCGS #6105. \$1150.

1823 Bust Half Dollar. PCGS graded AU-50 [ogh].

O-106a die variety, considered to be rarity-2. Flashy and attractive example of the "poor man's broken 3" variety (also known by the less interesting moniker the "tampered 3"). Bright and flashy cartwheel luster, and just starting to tone a light gold, coming in from the rims. Housed in a 25 year old PCGS slab. PCGS #6131. \$875.

1833 Bust Half Dollar. PCGS graded AU-50, CAC.

Beautiful gold toning with hints of blue. Quite a lot of luster remains for a coin graded AU-50. PCGS #6163. \$595.

1835 Bust Half Dollar. PCGS graded AU-50 CAC.

Rich blue and gold toning that lightens in the centers. Attractive bust halves in AU are one of the most popular items in the current coin market. PCGS # 6168. \$575.

1806 Draped Bust Half Dollar. PCGS graded XF-45, CAC.

Pointed 6, Stem Through Claw. Overton-116, considered to be rarity-3. Attractive gray toning with hints of green and gold. (this coin is housed in a PCGS holder incorrectly marked 1806/5; it is not an overdate). PCGS #6071. \$3675.

1929-D Walking Liberty Half Dollar. NGC graded AU58.

Very lustrous and quite well struck, with light golden toning as one approaches the rims.. Anyone who has put together a set of Walkers knows how difficult these mintmarked dates in the 1920's are to find. \$425.

1884-S Morgan Dollar. NGC graded AU58+ "Star" CAC.

A gorgeous example of this key date. The slab label says it all. \$5250.

1862-S Type 1 \$20 Gold. PCGS graded XF45.

Purchased uncertified at an antique shop in the Southern US and just certified. Light yellow in color, a strong strike and more mint luster than one would expect on a gold coin in this grade. PCGS #8938. \$2675.

Classic Commemoratives**1936 Cleveland Half Dollar. NGC graded MS66, CAC.**

"Stunning" is not a word that crops up often when discussing Cleveland half dollars. However, this one really fits the bill. Booming luster under gold, green and blue toning. PCGS #9288. \$495.

1937 Roanoke Half Dollar. NGC graded MS66, CAC.

Wild green, gold and russet toning over superb luster. From the same collection as the previous coin. I can't remember – is it better to buy beautiful coins when they are out of favor and ridiculously cheap, or is it better to wait until there is feverish demand and then pay a lot more for them? I cannot recall the wiser thing to do.... PCGS #9367. \$550.

World Coin**1761-Mo Pillar Dollar. PCGS graded XF-45.**

Mexico City mint. ¡Ay, Caramba! What a pleasing coin. Medium gray in color with a ring of pretty toning on the reverse. Perfect for someone who wants a nice representative of this important precursor to our silver dollar, at a most reasonable price. PCGS # 403035. \$675.

Exonumia, Esoterica, Exotica, Etcetera**1753 Pillar Type Contemporary Counterfeit 2 Reales. Very Good [uncertified].**

Mexico City mintmark; M assayer. Struck in brass. Unlike the portrait type 2 reales, the earlier pillar type 2 reales struck counterfeits are very rare. I had exactly one of this type in my extensive collection. \$250.

1797 Contemporary Counterfeit 2 Reales. Fine [uncertified].

Unlisted in either Kleeberg or John Lorenzo's update to Kleeberg. Unique. Brass. Similar to some of the known obverses, but differing in some aspects. The reverse appears to be Kleeberg-L2. Clipped from 2 to 4 o'clock. A great opportunity to add a unique piece to your collection at a price that won't break the bank. \$475.

1804 Contemporary Counterfeit 2 Reales. Extremely Fine [uncertified].

Kleeberg 04A-L12. Lima mint; TH assayer. Struck in German silver or copper-nickel. A very high grade example of an issue that was purposely engraved with very little detail on the head, to simulate circulation wear. \$385.

1808 Contemporary Counterfeit 2 reales. Very Fine [uncertified].

Unlisted in the Kleeberg study, but it has since been given Kleeberg #08D-G4. This is the plate coin to John Lorenzo's update to the Kleeberg study on these pieces, and still unique. While being unique is cool, that is not even the coolest part of this piece. At one point it must have circulated among a Spanish speaking population, and after discovery as a counterfeit it was stamped "FALSA". Even after it was stamped, it appears that it circulated for some time after that. Well made, with abundant silvering still remaining. This coin would be a highlight of any collection of contemporary counterfeits. \$785.

1819 Contemporary Counterfeit 2 Reales. Very Fine [uncertified].

Venezuela. Royalist coinage. Caracas mintmark, BS assayer. Struck in copper nickel or white metal or German silver; I am not certain. This style of 2 reales was also heavily used in commerce in the early United States. \$275.

1824 Central American Republic Contemporary Counterfeit 1 Escudo. Extremely Fine [uncertified]

NG-M. Lightweight at 3.6 grams, and likely made of debased gold, this specimen was likely accepted as genuine without a problem throughout the Americas. Today it is very difficult to find contemporary counterfeit coinage made of gold, as much has been destroyed and melted over the years. \$575.

(1849) Twenty-Five Cent size California Gold Period 3 "Charm". ICG graded MS65.

Round, Indian Head design. Rich gold color with prooflike surfaces. The Breen / Gillio "California Pioneer Fractional Gold" book divides California fractional gold coins into three periods: Period 1 (1852 - 1857) for the first coins manufactured to meet the needs of local commerce, Period 2 (1858 - 1882) for coins made specifically as souvenirs or for use in jewelry, & Period 3 (1900 - 1920 or so) for later-made coins that were back-dated in order to take advantage of collector demand for these coins. \$295.

(1884) Twenty-Five Cent size California Gold Period 3 "Charm". ICG graded MS65.

Round. This is the popular "Arms of California" design. Again - prooflike surfaces with somewhat frosty devices. \$350.

(1853) Fifty Cent size California Gold Period 3 "Charm". ICG graded MS65 PL.

Round. Strong mirrors grace this 50c sized "Arms of California" design. \$375.

(1855) Fifty Cent size California Gold Period 3 "Charm". ICG graded MS65.

Round. Indian chief obverse design. Quite flashy. \$350.

(1880) Fifty Cent size California Gold Period 3 "Charm". ICG graded MS65 PL.

Round. Bright medium gold in color, and nearly perfect. \$395.

1883 Hawaii Half Dollar. PCGS graded MS63, CAC.

Rich sky blue toning over lustrous surfaces. The 50c is the toughest denomination of the Hawaii series to find in high grade with eye appeal. Your search has ended. PCGS #10991. \$2550

1900 Lesher Dollar. NGC graded AU-55.

HK-787; Z-1. Medium gray-gold toning, with flashes of luster around the lettering. There is a thin diagonal mark on the reverse. While not perfect, this coin is a very acceptable representative of a very difficult Lesher type to obtain. PCGS #19000. \$5250.

1901 Lesher Dollar. J.M. Slusher. PCGS graded AU55.

HK-792. This coin has Lesher's lucky serial # 13 stamped onto the obverse. Attractive light gray in color, with the beginnings of rim toning around the periphery. Comes with PCGS TrueView images. PCGS #643508. \$4250.

1901 Lesher Dollar. Boyd Park. PCGS graded AU58.

HK-796. Serial #502, and the earliest known serial # of this type known to me. Very slightly prooflike surfaces over medium gray toning that deepens to a blue-green at the rims. Quite attractive. Comes with PCGS TrueView images. PCGS #19012. \$4350.

(ca. 1920's) Gutttag Brothers Coin Dealer Medal. Choice Uncirculated [uncertified].

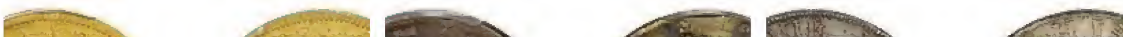
Struck in the 1920s for the Gutttag Brothers In the 1920s and '30s, Henry and Julius Gutttag were well known dealers in New York City. Securities dealers by trade, the pair was also responsible for publishing several coin reference books, and their price lists are still avidly collected. all were created in the twenties by sculptor Jonathan M. Swanson. Not all the varieties have been cataloged and not all have been published. Quite inexpensive, and unusual to find so pristine. \$85.

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Making The Grade #21: The Pre-ANA Issue

8/8/2015

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Once again I have cobbled together some mildly to moderately interesting topics to distract you for a few minutes, instead attending to the more important things on your To Do list. This issue features news of a new reference book on bust dimes, a troubling court case from the 1600's, and some good news on museum attendance. Also, the newly acquired coins at the end of this email might be worth a quick look too.

Thoughts on a One Eyed Piglet, and the Difficulty of Making Your Own Coins

WARNING: This article contains a somewhat graphic description. Skip this article if you are sensitive or easily offended.

I am not kidding about this. Though my wife forced me to write this disclaimer, she does have a valid point. As usual.

This is excerpted from the July 19, 2015 issue of the [Hartford Courant](#):

"NEW HAVEN -- On a farm here in 1642, a piglet with a deformed eye was born, stirring chatter among the townsfolk about whether a farmhand with one good eye fathered the animal.

The farmhand denied paternity at first, but changed his story after he was locked up and interrogated. Once found guilty of bestiality at trial, the farmhand and the sow were executed."

That account was taken from a new book written by Judge Jon C. Blue entitled, "The Case of the Piglet's Paternity: Trials from the New Haven Colony, 1639-1663."

Clearly, the colonists of New England were far from sophisticated in their understanding and handling of such matters. They lived in a fog of ignorance and superstition while scraping out a subsistence living from the dense forest land that had only recently been cleared of trees and untold numbers of rocks.

So it has always intrigued me that a mere 10 years after that poor farmhand was unfairly put to death, the first coins were struck up the road in the little town of Boston, Massachusetts.

Consider how sophisticated the process of minting coins is. You have to import or build the machinery, source the die steel, engrave the dies, melt the metal to a specified fineness, roll out the resulting ingots to the thinness of planchet stock, cut the blanks to precise weights and then strike the coins. To me it seems a minor miracle that it happened at all in such an early period of our history. Luckily for us some of those crudely struck coins from the 1600's still exist today for us to collect.

The new Dime Book is Here! The New Dime Book is Here!

Distributing coin books is something outside of my normal business plan here at the Dave Whuck Numismatics marketing conglomerate, but I am making an exception for this book. It will be ready for distribution in mid-August. It is the first update to this overlooked series in three decades.

Below please see the propaganda leaflet – er, I mean the promotional flyer – that describes this book. Email me if you want me to reserve a copy for you.



Bust Dime
Variety Identification Guide

Winston Zack
Louis Scuderi
Michael Sherrill

First NEW Bust Dime publication since *Early United States Dimes 1796-1837*, written in 1984!

New Book on Bust Dimes!

Bust Dime

Variety Identification Guide



1825

Repaired original (1825) ...

This guide provides very detailed descriptions of all Bust Dimes from 1792 to 1837 including exceptional color photographs for all die marriages to assist in attributing any Bust Dime quickly and easily.

- Detailed Year-By-Year descriptions for each date
- New Information on Die Marriages, Die States, Condition Census, Proofs, etc.
- High Res Close-Ups of primary Pick-Up-Points for each Die Marriage
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- User-Friendly, Portable, Dealer ready 5" x 8" spiral bound (lay-flat)
- Foreword by John McCloskey, An Appreciation by Q. David Bowers
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David Kahn
(Table 724)



Debut:
2015 ANA World's Fair of Money

\$49.00

After the show, contact any of these dealers for a copy:

- Rich Uhrich
- David Kahn
- Americana Rare Coin
- Dave Wnuck



News Flash: People Still Like Looking at Old Stuff

That was my takeaway from the article I read in the Wall Street Journal last week (the 7/29/2015 issue). The headline read, **"Met Museum Sets New Mark For Attendance"**. The article notes that the Metropolitan Museum in NYC – one of the premier museums on our planet – had record attendance in their most recent fiscal year.

In an age when people's eyes seem glued to their electronic devices, it is comforting to know that we still have the innate desire to see objects of beauty and historical interest. I'm no psychologist but I suspect there is something in the human condition that compels us to seek out, study, and enjoy such items.

On to the NewP's

As in my previous newsletters, these coins are the items I have gathered over the last few weeks. The plan is to upload all these coins to my website. In the meantime, readers of this newsletter will be the very first to lay eyes on these offerings. By popular demand, I've included photos of the coins where I have them.

The "Making the Grade" Featured Coin –

1809 Bust Half Dollar. PCGS graded AU50, CAC.

Overton-103, considered to be rarity-1. A ring of pastel blue and gold graces the periphery of this lustrous specimen. This is exactly what one hopes to see in an AU early date bust half. \$1200.

New Purchases**1793 Wreath Cent. NGC graded VF-25.**

Sheldon-8 die variety, considered to be rarity-3. A handsome, hard surfaced example with dark brown coloration. Lots of detail for the grade.\$12,750

1851 Braided Hair Large Cent. NGC graded MS66 BN.

Booming luster and nothing to detract from the eye appeal. \$1450.

1882 Indian Cent. NGC graded PF65RB CAC [fatty].

A gorgeous coin, with subtle pastel colors and housed in a 20 year old slab. \$675.

1938-D Buffalo Nickel. PCGS graded MS66.

Lots of coin for the money. \$75.

1836 Bust Dime. PCGS graded AU55, CAC.

JR-3, considered to be rarity-3. Light golden gray with plenty of luster. Quite pleasing and affordable for an early silver US coin. \$785.

1883 Seated Dime. PCGS graded PR64.

A ring of blue and green slowly transitions into near white centers. \$895.

1843 Seated Quarter. PCGS graded VG-8.

Normally a coin one wouldn't get too excited about. However, this coin simply blows one away from a color perspective. Brilliant, vibrant rings of toning make it stand out in a crowd. \$345.

1930 Standing Liberty Quarter. NGC graded MS65 Full Head, CAC [fatty].

Light golden toning over booming luster. \$600.

1950-D Washington Quarter. PCGS graded MS67 CAC

A ring of golden toning graces the obverse, while the reverse remains brilliant. Finding high grade and toned Washington quarters is quite difficult because there were no mint sets issued that year. Thus, collectors putting together a toned set are in for a tough time on this date. Finding this specimen might make their job a bit easier. \$635.

1803 Draped Bust Half Dollar. PCGS graded VF35.

Large 3. Overton-103, considered to be rarity-3. Bold detail, light gray with deepening color near the rims. \$1550.

1813 Bust Half Dollar. PCGS graded VF30.

Overton-103, as stated on the PCGS tag. Considered to be rarity-2. Light to medium gray; a pleasing example of this early date. \$335.

1814 Bust Half Dollar. NGC graded MS61.

Overton-103, considered to be rarity-1. What a knockout of a coin! Absolutely booming luster show this wildly clashed and cracked die specimen off to the extreme. If you like your coins untoned, I suggest you consider this specimen. \$2850.

1943 Walking Liberty half Dollar. PCGS graded MS66.

Bursting with wholesome goodness. \$175.

1964 Kennedy Half Dollar. PCGS graded PR69.

Nearly perfect. \$110.

1880-S Morgan Dollar. PCGS graded MS64+.

If you only want one, and you don't want to spend big bucks on it, this coin would be a good choice. \$95.

1923 Peace Dollar. PCGS graded MS63.

Accurately graded. Not too likely I will be having inexpensive coins like these in future price lists. \$55.

1890-CC Morgan Dollar. PCGS graded MS64 DMPL, CAC.

This coin has a great look to it, just as one would expect. A better date Carson City dollar, PCGS graded, Deep Mirror Proof Like, not hazy or milky in the slightest, grade verified by CAC – the whole kit & caboodle. \$3450.

1878-S Trade Dollar. ANACSS graded AU55.

I don't normally list ANACS coins, but this came in as a part of a type set, and the coin is quite attractive. Peripheral russet and blue fades into near white centers. \$375.

1912 Indian Half Eagle. PCGS graded MS64+ CAC.

Just a knockout coin for the grade. This coin came from a crack out dealer who tried several times to submit it for an MS65. He offered it to me for considerably less than he paid for it. \$3675.

1911 \$10 Indian. NGC graded MS64 CAC.

A delightful, lustrous and pristine example, on the verge of a higher grade. \$2250.

1936 Delaware Commemorative Half Dollar. NGC graded MS66 CAC [fatty].

Beautiful, original and mark free. In the early days of slabbing (not long before the time this coin was slabbed) the Delaware commemorative was elusive to unknown in top grades. I remember one of my early mentors seeking a mark free, original coin and couldn't find one at any price. I'm guessing he would have approved of this coin. \$650.

1936 York Commemorative Half Dollar. NGC graded NGC MS66 CAC [fatty].

A nice match to the Delaware above, at least in terms of near-perfection. \$295.

Exonumia, Esoterica, Etcetera**1783 Washington & Independence Colonial Coin. Electrottype. Almost Uncirculated [uncertified].**

This coin came out of a NCS holder that indicated it was genuine. I can see why – it is an extremely deceptive copy. Old NCS tag included upon request. \$150.

1794 White Metal Conder token. PCGS graded AU55.

Lancashire-Lancaster. D&H-3, struck in white meal. Flashy proof-like surfaces in the protected areas. Quite a pretty token, and a nice addition to a Conder token collection, as virtually all of the tokens are struck in copper. \$595.

1795 Anti-Slavery Halfpenny Token. NGC graded MS64 Brown.

Great Britain. Middlesex-Spence's, D&H 1037a. Frosty golden brown with a rich mix of rose and mint orange iridescence. Kneeling slave in shackles and chains, AM I NOT A MAN AND A BROTHER around. A similar obverse was used in the Hard Times series for an extremely rare variety.

In an exhibition at the New-York Historical Society a few years back, an exhibit demonstrated that New York City had a long history as a capital of slavery. In 1790, one in five white households in the city owned a slave. Though there was a growing free black population, it was not until July 4, 1827 that the state of New York formally abolished slavery. \$1650.

1796 Hanging Man – End of Pain Halfpenny Token. PCGS graded MS64.

Middlesex-Spence's, D&H-864. Light brown with tinges of red. A massive cud on the all-important Hanging Man side makes for a truly spectacular token. The reverse features two boys at a turnstile. A breathtaking example of this iconic token; the only one PCGS has graded in any grade, and the very first I have handled. \$2950.

Circa 1880's \$20 Gold Size Spielmark Token. Uncirculated [uncertified].

A neat "counter" or gaming token. Most are worn to some degree. This one is beautiful and has some subtle violet toning to boot. \$95.

A Pair of 1885 Ulysses S Grant Medals - White Metal. In presentation Case. Choice Proof [uncertified].

A pair of beautiful and scarce medals struck in white metal. The diameter of each medal is quite large (63 mm); they were engraved with by George Morgan at the US Mint.

The obverse features Grant's bust facing right splitting the legends "IN MEMORIAM" and "U.S. GRANT" with "1822-1885" below. The obverse outer legend reads "SOLDIER PRESIDENT CITIZEN / THOUGH TO EARTH NO MORE IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER".

The reverse features Grant sitting atop his horse with flag bearer to left and cannon to right. The reverse legend reads "FORT DONELSON 1862 – VICKSBURG 1863 – RICHMOND 1865 – PRESIDENT 1869-1877". The case and the condition of these medals make for something really special. I have seen several over the years that were damaged or holed at the top for suspension from a ribbon. This is the first I have seen of the presentation case; I am not sure how many of these two piece presentation sets still exist. Deeply cameoed, with choice and mirrored surfaces. \$795.

1872 Sweden White Metal Medal. Choice Prooflike Uncirculated [uncertified].

34 mm diameter, engraved by Ahiborn Carlmichael Bellman. The medal featuring what appears to me to be a mandolin or an early version of a guitar.

So cool looking that no one would fault you if you placed this token on your desk and had an overwhelming urge to crank up the song, "C'mon and Take a Free Ride," by the Edgar Winter Group, for it's awesome electric mandolin licks. Comes with its original round cardboard box as well. \$125.

1933 GENERAL MOTORS SILVER ANNIVERSARY Medal. Uncirculated [uncertified].

Marqusee 53. 76mm. Silver plated Bronze. The engraver of this well known and popular large medal was Norman Bel Geddes. This is an unusual specimen in that it has toned in a most pleasing and colorful manner. The other specimens I have seen over the years have been either untuned or toned in a dull light gray.

The obverse presents a classic art deco design with a large wing projecting from behind the stylized front end of a car. The obverse legend reads; TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF MOTOR TRANSPORTATION. There is a stylized piston design on the reverse. This is probably the most popular of all art deco medals, with crossover appeal to automotive collectors.

The website of the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art comments on this medal as follows

"This medallion, commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of General Motors, is an example of the Streamlined style that dominated architecture and design in America from the late 1920s to the end of the 1930s. With its abstracted, teardrop-shaped vehicle form depicted in motion, with the tall wing like element rising from its center, the overall effect is one of speed and movement— characteristic of the Streamlined style and appropriate to the automobile and airplane age. Norman Bel Geddes was trained as a theatrical set designer but best known for another project for General Motors, the Futurama exhibition at the 1939 New York World's Fair. This exhibit, through which visitors were propelled on a giant conveyor belt, depicted a utopian vision of America in the near future, a world dependent on the speed and efficiency of the automobile for work and recreation."

Hmm ... they predicted a future where people are utterly dependent on their cars. Looks like they nailed it! \$975.

(2004) Libertas Americana Medal, Paris Mint Silver 40mm Restrike. NGC graded PR69 Ultra Cameo.

The last silver "original" Libertas Americana medal that I sold went for in the neighborhood of \$200,000 a few years back.

This restrike is cheaper. Like the originals, this was struck in the Paris mint. It comes with the original case of issue and with a certificate from that mint stating that this medal was #1393 of 15,000 struck. \$595.

Paper Money.**\$1000 Federal Reserve Note. PMG graded Choice Very Fine-35.**

Friedberg #2212-G, Chicago. The best of a small group of \$1000 and \$500 bills that just came over the transom. \$2100.

\$1000 Federal Reserve Note. PMG graded Very Fine-30.

Friedberg #2212-G, Chicago. These large denomination bills are super-cool. They appeal to non-collectors as well. Over

the years I have seen some of these being awarded as incentives to high performing salespeople; sure beats a watch and a plaque. \$1900.

\$500 Federal Reserve Note. PMG graded Apparent Almost Uncirculated-50 net.

Friedberg #2201-Adgs Dark Green, Boston. The tears are tiny and pretty much invisible in the PMG holder. \$985.

\$500 Federal Reserve Note. PMG graded Apparent Very Fine 25 net.

Friedberg #2201-Adgs Dark Green, Boston. There is a tear and some adhesive on the reverse. Still very presentable; any cheaper would resemble Swiss cheese. Aw darn – now I'm getting hungry! \$750.

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